

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.-43. (Canceled)

44. (Currently Amended) An isolated or purified nucleic acid molecule coding for a protein selected from the group consisting of oxidoreductase (Rv0068) (SEQ ID NO: 1) from *M. tuberculosis*, hypothetical protein (Rv3407) (SEQ ID NO: 2) from *M. tuberculosis*, and a fusion protein comprising said Rv0068 or said Rv3407 protein, or a combination thereof **of Rv0068 and Rv3407.**

45. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising at least one nucleic acid molecule of claim 44.

46.-47. (Canceled).

48. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 44, wherein said composition is a pharmaceutical composition further comprising, ~~optionally~~, a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

49. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 48, wherein said composition ~~comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and said composition~~ is a vaccine.

50. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 44, wherein said composition is a diagnostic composition further comprising, ~~optionally~~, suitable means for detection.

51. (Previously Presented) A method for the production of a vaccine against a virulent strain of the *M. tuberculosis* comprising the steps of:

- (a) recombinantly expressing a differentially expressed protein selected from the group consisting of oxidoreductase (Rv0068) (SEQ ID NO: 1) from *M. tuberculosis*, hypothetical protein (Rv3407) (SEQ ID NO: 2) from *M. tuberculosis*, or a fusion protein comprising said protein, and
- (b) combining said recombinantly expressed protein, or said fusion protein with a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

52. (Previously Presented) A method for the production of a vaccine against a virulent strain of *M. tuberculosis* comprising combining a vector comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 44 with a biologically acceptable carrier, wherein said nucleic acid molecule in said vector is placed under the control of an expression control sequence.

53. (Canceled).

54. (Currently Amended) A method of preventing, ameliorating or treating **tuberculosis induced by a *M. tuberculosis* induced disease in a subject in need thereof** comprising administering an effective amount of the vaccine of claim 49 to a **the** subject to prevent, ameliorate or treat a ~~*M. tuberculosis* induced disease in said subject.~~

55. (Canceled).

56. (Currently Amended) A method of detecting the presence of *M. tuberculosis* in a sample, comprising contacting the composition of claim 50 with a sample suspected of containing *M. tuberculosis*, and detecting the presence of ~~polynucleotides encoding said *M. tuberculosis* proteins in said sample~~ **a polynucleotide coding for a protein selected from the group consisting of oxidoreductase (Rv0068) (SEQ ID NO: 1) from *M. tuberculosis*, hypothetical protein (Rv3407) (SEQ ID NO: 2) from *M. tuberculosis*, and a fusion protein comprising Rv0068, Rv3407, or a combination of Rv0068 and Rv3407 in the sample.**

57. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 56, wherein said detection of said component associated with *M. tuberculosis* is indicative of an *M. tuberculosis* induced disease selected from the group consisting of tuberculosis.

58.-62. (Canceled)

63. (Previously Presented) An isolated or purified nucleic acid molecule coding for hypothetical protein (Rv3407) (SEQ ID NO: 2) from *M. tuberculosis*, or a fusion protein comprising said protein.

64. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 63, wherein said composition is a pharmaceutical composition further comprising, optionally, a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

65. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 64, wherein said composition comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and said composition is a vaccine.

66. (Previously Presented) An isolated or purified nucleic acid molecule coding for oxidoreductase (Rv0068) (SEQ ID NO: 1) from *M. tuberculosis*, or a fusion protein comprising said protein.

67. (Currently Amended) A composition comprising a nucleic acid molecule of claim 66, wherein said composition is a pharmaceutical composition further comprising, optionally, a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

68. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim 67, wherein said composition comprises a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier and said composition is a vaccine.